

2006

The Compact, Issue 6, 22nd of February, 2006

DIT: Students' Union

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the compact



o6

22nd February 2006

dit students union




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Hello everyone....

Hope everyone is keeping well after a hectic week or two with the RAG and S.H.A.G festivities taking place in DIT at the same time.

In this edition please check-out the Student Questionnaire on page 14. Please do not put your name on it but return it to your local Students' Union office in the next two weeks. If enough of you fill the form out, for the next issue we will have a look at the results and see what problems really face students in modern times.

The RAG week was a success and hopefully we have raised the 20,000 euro target for the

Central Remedial Clinic. The bed push was my favourite part of the week and I was there myself as the gang took off from DIT Rathmines as they headed into town attracting attention from all passers-by. They did a great job and I stayed with them up to the end of Grafton St., until the old hamstring injury got the better of me and I opted for the safety of my cosy office.

We have a full round-up of the weeks activities at the back of the magazine so please check it out!

I have also spent the last week or so looking at a story that was brought to my attention by an Aungier Street student who missed three weeks of lectures at the beginning of January due to a mix-up with the student's academic calendar. Please turn to page 6 & 7 to see the reaction from DIT President, Brian Norton on the matter.

Cormac Cahill, Editor.

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So that was SHAG/RAG week '06! Will you ever forget it, or do even remember? While there is huge emphasis on everyone to get out and enjoy the events, I think we brought back some of what 'Raising And Giving' is all about - the charity aspect. It was brilliant to see so many of our students out on the streets tapping the public up for money for our chosen charity, the Central Remedial Clinic. I have to commend all those who took part, and the sterling work of the local and overall ents crew's, without whom none of this would have been possible. At the time of going to print, we are well on target to raise the €20,000 we aimed for. We also ran a very successful

SHAG awareness campaign last week, well done to Ber and Aimee for keeping us informed! We would like to thank AIB, Bank of Ireland and DIT, who all gave generously to help us run the week, and a special thanks to DIT President Brian Norton for his help in encouraging all students and staff to take part.

Next up we have the sabbatical elections, so if you are interested in running, get on the website, and get the required info. Keep an eye out for the candidates and make sure to grill them on their policies!

As you will see in the feature story, we are extremely busy with DIT issues at the moment, but that's what we are here for, so if the problems of other students highlight some of your own, make sure to come to us with them.

For comment on RAG Trip see pg. 31.

**Bob Coggins,
Students' Union President**

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- 4-5 Campus Reports
- 6-7 SU Welcome Assurances
- 8 Explore Dublin'd Beauty
- 9 DIT Woos School Leavers
- 10 Clubs & Socs
- 11 College Sloganeering
- 12-13 Men's Fashion
- 14 Questionnaire
- 16 Food for Thought
- 18 Here Comes the Mail
- 19 Cycling
- 20 Film Festival
- 21 Frames' Indian Summer
- 22 Battle of the Bands
- 24 Columnists
- 25 Molly
- 26 Health
- 27-29 RAG/SHAG Round-up
- 31 In-house Comic

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DIT Aungier Street

By The A-Team

Hello Aungier Street Students,

Hope you all enjoyed the fun that was had over R.A.G. / S.H.A.G. week.

We have been looking around Aungier Street DIT, and we've noticed some worrying trends. **THE PLACE IS FILTHY!**

So, as your local Aungier Street 'Local Programme Implementation Team' (A-Team for short), we're doing something about it!

Firstly, those clear bins, the ones that you can see through, those are recycling bins please use them. Recycling has come a long way. You no longer need to separate all your waste. Just put it all in the clear bins. Everything except coffee cups, anything organic/wet and sandwich wrappers can go into the clear bags. This means that almost all the rubbish

Aungier Street produces can and should be recycled.

Secondly, when you finish eating or enjoying the ambience in the SU common area, please put your rubbish into the appropriate bin. If you happen to spill anything/ knock anything over/ break something, please either clean it up, or notify somebody.

Thirdly, please enjoy the many 'clean campus' themed activities we'll be having over the coming weeks. This is a common problem across DIT, and it's in your own interest to keep your union tidy.

"I pity the fool who don't keep this clean"

DIT Mountjoy Square

By Paul O'Connell, (Convenor)

On a hill overlooking Dublin is the position of the base of Academic Affairs in Mountjoy Square, to tell you exactly where it is would be top secret information kinda..... Modules, semesterisation and plans of work are the tactics deployed on this site. At all hours (between 8.30 and 9pm) our trained porters secure and patrol our labyrinth like corridors. Central operations are located in our bunker code-named "the canteen". Within our base the forces of Student Union maintains an outpost, manned by Commander in chief of Academic affairs (must have left the keys in the door) Capt. Mary Scally supported by our militaristic fiery ex-vp SSA Major Sharon Hughes (whose late night initiation exercises are now at legendary proportions).

The officers on site and our army of ents struggle to hold our position on the DITSU

map. Sometimes outmanoeuvred by larger forces we have to rely on diplomatic missions to the United Nations of DITSU 'the Governing Council'. With supply lines from Base Command to Mountjoy Square subverted to larger operations we have learned to live on meagre rations. Re-establishing trade routes is our top priority due to the very strategic position of this base and we are encouraging on-going recruitment drives.

We need to keep a foothold in the terrain of DIT using the underground movement that is Student Union as a perfect assault vehicle. I believe our work here is vital to the operations of base Mountjoy Sq., and encourage civilians to enlist immediately or risk assault of our most deadly weapon labelled Project Bob!

DIT Bolton Street

By Seán Mac an Rí, (Communications Conveyor)

A lot has happened here in Bolton St., since Christmas.

We had a Well Fair Week from Jan 21st Feb 3rd which promoted a healthier lifestyle through sports and fitness demonstrations and nutritional advice.

A selection of Moore St., ladies were walking around handing out free fruit and a giant cigarette with information on quitting smoking.

RAG trip tickets went on sale on Monday 7th and were sold out in a few hours. There was unconfirmed reports of a number of students who camped outside the side gates of the college (yes on the street) to be first in the queue. The night was passed by playing topless rugby on the street at 3:00am. A true testament that the Bolton St. students will do anything for anything,

the majority of the campers

were not even buying tickets!

Then there was the naked, half naked posing on the common area floor in Bolton St. for the cover of the RAG calendar.

So basically it was a fairly quiet few weeks - well for Bolton St anyway!



DIT Kevin Street

By Kieran Keane, (Convenor)

It's that time of year again-when study must commence, assignments must be done and projects must be handed in!!

Well a small word of advice, don't get too highly strung with it, just relax and set deadlines!! if you have any problems don't hesitate to call up to the Students' Union office, we have the numbers for everywhere for whatever problem you have.

I'll also be trying to run events about once a week to

help take your mind of your worries. Any suggestions you have for games or events please call in to us.

I want to say a big thank you for everybody that helped raise money for RAG & SHAG week 2006, it was a great success and the money will make a big difference to the Central Remedial Clinic.

Until next episode, take it easy.



DIT Cathal Brugha Street

By Laura Phelan, (Convenor)



Walking through the halls of Cathal Brugha the smell of cooking food lets you know that term has truly started back. Everything's really back in full swing with three campaigns being run out of the Student Affairs Department. The Buddy System, Well Fair and SHAG! There's a great buzz in the common room with the anticipation of the SHAG/RAG festivities – including a condom hunt, Twister and lots more, with prizes kindly sponsored from the Students' Union and Adult Stores like Miss Fantasias.

There'll be lots of good vibration rest assured!

With the return of the dirty buggers (sorry, I mean Students!) the litter problem has come back full force with people so incapable of walking two metres to a bin! The problem has reached a point of being able to fill a black bag with rubbish that was just left on the floor or the table. They wouldn't do it at home, so why do they do it here?

Class Rep meetings take place once a month! If you're free, call in to MG10 and see what's happening. It's your forum to have your say over your classes' problems and I'll try to help however I can! Saying that, Sarah, our SSA, is always in the office (over in the corner of the common room!). Feel free to contact me over any issue you have, or drop down to the basement! My email is convenor@cbst.ditsu.ie

DIT Rathmines

By Aoife Courtney, (Convenor)

We are in full flow of second semester here in Rathmines, especially because the music students have been back since the 9th of January!

Lunch time music and singing recitals continue every Wednesday. They are free to everyone and include singers, pianists and other instrumentalists performing for forty minutes.

In a few weeks time the soloists, chorus and symphony orchestra of the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama will present 'A Night at the Opera' in the National Concert Hall on Tuesday 22 February. Tickets are 15 euro or 8 euro concession and are available at the NCH.

Our canteen is undergoing the slowest makeover in history but I'm told there is a great improvement in the hot chocolate.

Second year drama students are swaggering about the place like true buccaneers as they learn swordsmanship as part of their actor training.

RAG events have been a bit thin on the ground but I'm organising pizza for everyone to make us feel a bit better!

In the words of Bugs Bunny, that's all folks.



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Do you have something to say?

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dit students' union
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Students' Union Welcomes Assurances by DIT President over Missing Lectures

DIT Students' Union has welcomed assurances made by the DIT President, Professor Brian Norton, that students who missed three full weeks of lecturing at the beginning of January will have all of their coursework delivered as promised it has emerged.

DIT NEWS

BY CORMAC CAHILL

A great deal of confusion has been caused since DIT have made strides towards modularisation within a semesterised academic calendar as it has left some courses trying to combine their old year calendars with the new semesterisation timetable.

This reached its zenith this January when some Marketing students within the Faculty of Business in Aungier Street missed three full weeks of lecturing. They had been assured that classes would commence in the new year on 9th January only then to be told that they wouldn't be commencing until 30th January.

Student Reaction

This left some students feeling decidedly angry towards the Institute's authorities for this terrible mix-up.

The alarm was raised by one 2nd year Marketing student who contacted 'The Compact' who felt "extremely let down by the Institute," over the saga that saw the student miss three weeks of lecturing at the start of the new year.

The student outlined the error: "In my year book it says that we finish on 12th December 2005 and would return to the Institute on the 9th January 2006. But when I came back on that date we were told that we wouldn't be coming back until the 30th January 2006 – it's a disgrace."

Another marketing student – a 3rd year – also contacted 'The Compact' and said that they too had missed three full weeks of lecturing time. "Before Christmas the lecturers were hinting that we may not be coming back until 30th January and said we wouldn't be covering any new material," said the clearly distressed student.

"My year head told us to come back on 9th January 2006 so when I came back on that date there was only six people in the class and then I received a few emails from lecturers saying there was no classes until 30th January," continued the student.

Series of Events

It is understood that a derogation from the Academic Council

(the highest decision making body in DIT on academic matters) in relation to the semesterised calendar was sought and agreed in April 2005. An exemption was sought for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students by the Marketing Department.

However, the calendars and yearbooks that were prepared in early summer 2005 and issued to students at the beginning of the academic year did not take this derogation into account.

This claim has been confirmed by 'The Compact' who managed to obtain a copy of the 2nd year Marketing year time-table where it clearly states that students are finished college on 12th December 2005 and were supposed to commence college in the new year on 9th January.

President's Reaction

I contacted the President of DIT, Professor Brian Norton, and put to him the concerns of the students and the confusion surrounding the missing three weeks of lecturing.

"Preparing to switch to a new format has involved lengthy planning, discussions at academic council," he said.

"Negotiations with the relevant representative bodies such as the TUI, extensive work by academic staff to re-organise course content and assessment to meet the new system, and the introduction of electronic systems to manage the collation of assessment results."

The President explained the some courses were not semesterised and other had sought an exemption in the form of derogation. "Two areas were not semesterised – they were apprenticeship and junior music instrumental tuition," said Prof. Norton.

"In addition, a small number of programmes were granted derogations for a year to allow their programme committees to re-organise some specific elements according to the new timetable requirements," said Prof Norton.

The President was quick to point out that the students that missed the three full weeks of lecturing

will not be affected in the long run. "Students can be assured that all coursework will be delivered within the academic year as planned," said Professor Norton.

"The new system was implemented at the beginning of the 2005-2006 academic year and not everything has worked perfectly but given the significant change involved and thanks to the outstanding co-operation of staff and students, there have been relatively few difficulties."

Confusion

However, the students still feel that better communication could have put their fears at rest. "If someone had contacted us and said 'you aren't back until 30th January' that would have been fine, but we were never told by anyone and it's ridiculous in this day and age," said the 3rd year marketing student.

The second year student that I spoke to also feels that she has lost out on too much college time as the student had a reading week in November and another one in March that is not a part of their time-table. The student also feels that the President's assurance that all classwork will be delivered rings hollow: "How can it be? We have been scheduled to have five extra weeks at the beginning of the year and now we don't. Where are they going to find the time to put five more weeks of lectures into the college year? - are we going to have class until May or are our exams not going to start until June?"

TUI Part in the Story

However, sources within the college have levied some blame on the Teachers' Union of Ireland (TUI) for the missed three weeks of college. It has been alleged that the TUI put pressure on the Academic Council to adopt the semesterisation calendar during the academic year to ensure better conditions for its members, i.e. giving the lecturers more time off over the Christmas break.

The 3rd year marketing student that I spoke to said that some lecturers did attend classes but no new course work was completed: "There was definitely something going on; I'm not sure whether it was intimidation from the union (TUI) or what but there was something going on."

The 2nd year student blames the college and also the Teachers' Union Ireland (TUI) are to blame

for the mess-up. "I think some lecturers felt intimidated not to come in," said the student.

TUI Reaction

However, when I spoke to Michael Carr, Branch Secretary, TUI Dublin Colleges Branch about the mix-up he said that no blame could be levied at the union. "In order to facilitate this introduction the Directorate in DIT proposed a new academic calendar," said Mr. Carr

"In June 2005, following negotiations, the members of TUI voted to accept this new semesterised calendar. The agreement with DIT did not provide for any derogations from the agreed calendar."

The teaching in Semester One of this academic calendar ran from 19th September to 16th December inclusive and Teaching in Semester Two of this academic calendar runs from 30th January to 12th May inclusive said Mr. Carr and "this is the calendar which is operated by TUI members in accordance with the agreement reached with management in June 2005."

However, Mr. Carr said that derogation was sought by some courses within DIT but these exemptions are currently being disputed. "Derogations were granted from the calendar by the academic council," he said.

"But these derogations were in breach of the agreement and this matter is the subject of an ongoing dispute."

Students' Union

Speaking about the issue Bernadette Farrell, SU Vice-President Student & Academic Affairs said that throughout January her office dealt with lots of complaints from unhappy students who were irate that their scheduled lectures weren't taking place. "The most pressing concern for these students was the impact that the problem would have on their workload for the rest of the year and we share their concern," she said.

"Three weeks of lectures is a lot to miss. Once the matter was brought to our attention we immediately made contact with the relevant sections within the DIT at Faculty level and within the Department of Academic Affairs in Pembroke Street and Brian Norton was alerted also."

Ms. Farrell also said that assurances made by Professor Norton concerning the missing lectures are welcome: "We have strenuously protested on behalf of the students affected and while we welcome the assurances that we have received we intend to vigilantly monitor these courses for the rest of the Academic Year so that our students are not adversely affected in any way by circumstances that were entirely outside their control."

The Students' Union President, Bob Coggins, added that while he accepted that there may well be glitches in the implementation of modularisation there has to be greater awareness on the part of the DIT that the needs of the students are met as they are the most important part of the entire process.

The President of DIT, Professor Brian Norton has encouraged any students who have any problems or queries concerning the semesterised calendar to contact a member of the Students' Union. "Should students have any further queries or comments, their feedback, through Student Union representative and course tutors, is encouraged," he stated.

"The Institute will be reviewing the experiences of the initial changeover throughout this year in order to strengthen the model and to ensure that students gain from this development."

For the students who did miss three weeks of lecturing at the beginning of January, they will ultimately have to wait until they receive their end of year results to be able to say if - and by how much - this mix-up has affected their study.

The Compact understands that these problems did not just surface within the Marketing Department in Faculty of Business in Aungier Street and that other courses in DIT may also have been affected by the timetable mess-up. However, there was not sufficient time - prior to publication - to research this further.

Any student who has been affected by any these issues should contact:
Bernadette Farrell
academicaffairs@uitsu.ie or
086 603 1075

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Fares correct at time of print.



It's Time To Explore Dublin's Beauty

For a relatively small city Dublin is certainly not found wanting when it comes to places of historical and cultural interest. Yet all too often such places remain unexplored and underappreciated.

LOCAL FEATURE

BY ANTHONY FLYNN

Details

IRISH JEWISH MUSEUM

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MARSH'S LIBRARY

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Indeed, there are libraries, museums, galleries and churches whose existence is unknown to the denizens of this city. It was with this in mind that I set out to investigate a sample of the cultural attractions on offer in Dublin city over the weekend 12/13 of February. I confined my venture to the Dublin 2/8 sectors - from Portobello Road as far as Dame Street.

Archbishop Marsh's Library, located in St. Patrick's Close, Dublin 8, was where I began exploring in earnest. While elevated well above the road, Marsh's Library resides in the shadow of the towering St. Patrick's cathedral.

Constructed over three hundred years ago, it holds the illustrious title of Ireland's first public library. The interior of the library, with its dark oak bookcases, has remained untouched in the intervening three centuries. An impressive collection of scholarly work is housed in these bookcases, with subjects as diverse as astronomy, law, theology, philosophy, navigation and mathematics on open display.

The icy cold temperature, necessary to maintain the condition of the rarefied books, will keep you alert if nothing else. The second wing of the library contains three

wired alcoves or 'cages' wherein readers were enclosed in times past. It is also in this second wing that the death mask of Jonathan Swift, himself a former Dean of St. Patrick's cathedral and governor of the library, is on display. A few strides on from Marsh's Library and I was immersing myself in the architectural grandeur of my second destination - Christ Church cathedral.

Hardly unknown to the denizens of Dublin I hear you say - it's arguably the city's most enduring landmark! Yet how easy it is to overlook Christ Church as a mere tourist/school tour phenomenon. Whether it's the ethereal effect from the stained glass windows that filter light in from all sides of the cathedral, the seemingly impossible feats of masonry from floor to ceiling, or the fifteenth century brass medieval lectern, Christ Church cannot but fill you with awe.

From the landmark status of Christ Church to the relative obscurity of my third and final destination - the Irish Jewish museum.

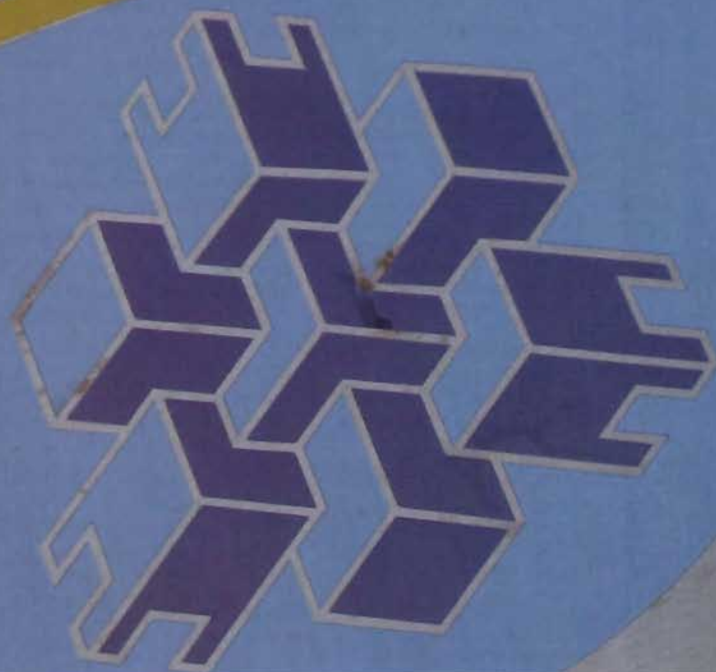
Situated on 3-4 Walworth Road, just off Victoria Street, the museum is hardly discernible from the other redbrick terraced houses save for the plaque on the wall.

Initially serving as a synagogue (from 1902-70), Jewish population movement to the suburbs combined with an overall decline in the number of Irish Jews led to its eventual closure.

Memorabilia on display offers a glimpse into the religious, social, economic, and sporting life of the Irish Jewry. The recreation of a Sabbath meal room with two candlesticks, two loaves of Challah bread, kosher wine and kiddush cups adds to the authentic feel of the overall display.

The history of Jews in any country will for ever be entwined with the extermination camps of Nazi Germany. References in this museum are made to the less than accommodating stance of the then Irish government to the plight of Jewish refugees, both before and during WW2. The most poignant element of the museum's displays relates to Esther Steinberg - the only Irish known victim of the Holocaust. Married in Dublin, she then went to live with her husband in Belgium. Being forced to flee Belgium she sought sanctuary in France only to be eventually captured and subsequently transported to Auschwitz.

Above: Archbishop Marsh's Library, located in St. Patrick's Close, Dublin 8



DIT Woos School Leavers

DIT says it spent €100,000 in January on advertising the college. The campaign, 'A Step Closer to the Real World', was aimed at school leavers and used press, radio and billboard ads. The campaign is designed to highlight the future move to one single campus in Grangegorman from 2008.

DIT NEWS

BY DAVID WHITE

DIT and UCD generally compete for the most CAO applications, with DIT usually receiving the higher number of applicants. An estimated 3,000 prospective students attended the DIT open day last December.

Irish Colleges are being forced to compete harder for students these days, thanks to a marked increase in the number of college places on offer. In 1986 there were 60,000 students applying for places on only 20 courses. Today there are around 700 courses available for 55,000 students. The deadline for CAO applications was February 1st.

UCD estimated expenditure on its 'Dublin's Education Capital' advertising campaign was over €200,000, according to the Irish Times. CAO applications to UCD have not matched the expectations of some senior figures in Belfield in recent years, according to the newspaper report.



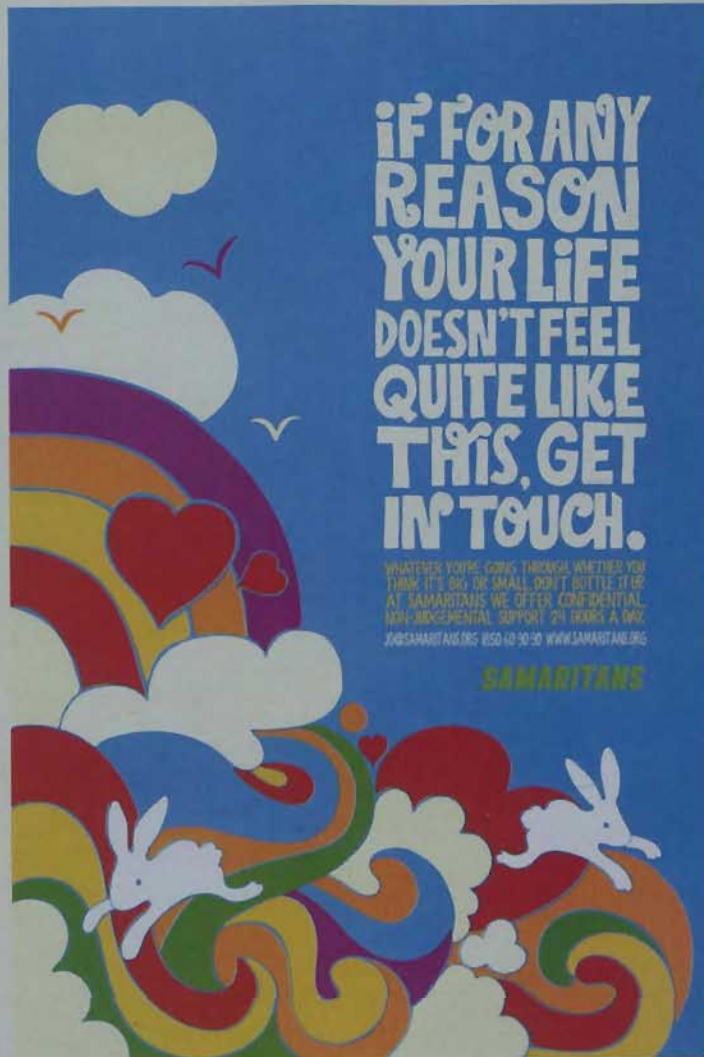
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DIT DJ's Limber up for 'Spin-Off 06'

SOCIETIES

BY DARRAGH GIBBONS

Dublin is bracing itself for an influx of some of Ireland's finest student DJing talents!

'Spinoff 06' is the brainchild of the DIT DJ Society and will see eight different colleges from all over Ireland arriving in Dublin on April 6th for the first ever All Ireland Intervarsity DJ Competition. DJ's from DIT, UCD, DCU, UCC, Trinity, University of Limerick, NUI Galway and Queens University Belfast will all take part in the Grand Final which takes place in 'Crawdaddy' on April 6th. The event is backed by Shindig Dublin's leading student night, and it is here that the DJ Society have been holding a weekly residency in 'The Lobby Bar' (Crawdaddy) with regular DJ's Nelson Ramalho, Dave McGettigan, Ene Keenan and Damien McGoohan on the decks. The heats for 'Spinoff' will be coupled with the regular Thursday night at Shindig, with a Launch Party taking place on February 23rd, and the heats for the Dublin colleges taking place throughout March.

"The aim of the competition is ultimately to uncover a new DJing talent from amongst the third level institutes in Ireland. It's the first time such an event has ever been held and so far the response has been fantastic from the participating colleges and our regular Thursday night clubbers" said Ene Keenan, DJ Society Chairperson. The DJ Society had been running a successful 'in-house' DJ Competition for the past number of years, dubbed 'Rollin'n'Scratchin'', under

the guidance of former chairperson Will Kinsella. The finals of 'Rollin'n'Scratchin' 2005' were held in Wax and Graham O'Reilly aka DJ Graham Mor, was crowned the DIT DJ Champion. Graham has since went on to play in POD and at several other venues in the city. The fact that Graham, and other previous winners have been noticed by the prominent clubs is a testament to the reputation the competition has, and this year will be no different.

The DIT leg of the competition is currently taking entries, and is open to all students of the college. The competition will take the form of heats within the college, with a number of students qualifying to go on to the 'Spinoff' heat in Crawdaddy on March 30th. Here the 2006 DIT DJ Champion will be crowned and they will carry on to the 'Spinoff' final on April 6th, where they will be pitted against seven other contestants from all over Ireland.

To enter the competition, simply e-mail your name, campus, student number and contact details to spinoff06@gmail.com. You can find more information on the DJ Society on their website <http://djsoc.socs.dit.ie>

DATES FOR SPINOFF 06

Launch Party – Thursday February 23rd
UCD Heats – Thursday March 2nd
DCU Heats – Thursday March 9th
Trinity Heats – Thursday March 23rd
DIT Heats – Thursday March 30th
Spinoff Final – Thursday April 6th
*all heats will be held in Crawdaddy.

Societies Listings

If you want your club or society featured on these pages for the next edition of The Compact please contact the editor, Cormac Cahill compact@ditsu.ie

BREAK DANCE

Holding workshops every Wednesday between 7 – 9pm, for all levels in Kevin Street.

CHRISTIAN UNION

The Christian Union's weekly meeting is moving from Bolton St to Aungier St, Thursdays at 7pm in the student union student's activity room.

CAPOEIRA

Classes start back on the 3rd February, 3pm in the gym in Kevin Street

DJ SOC

Holding a inter college dj battle, with eight colleges competing, starting 23 February running to the 6th March, all Dublin heats in the Pod. Info attached.

JUGGLERS

The jugglers are holding a juggling convention in March, this is an event not to be missed, running from Friday 10th to Sunday 12th of March. It is guaranteed to be an extravaganza of fun colour and excitement. Venus to be confirmed, so keep your eye out for posters, or on the soc.ie website. Also holding weekly workshops every Monday, 5 – 8pm in Belvedere College, Temple Street

LGBT

Rainbow Week is coming up dates to be confirmed. Also weekly meetings are being held, on a different day every week, in different locations, so look up ditlgbt.com

CAFA

Cathal Brugha's culinary arts and fine foods society. February will see the society embark on more amazing meal experiences and the society is planning to go on a mystery trip away.

CHESS SOCIETY

The Bolton street based chess soc are meeting every Monday night in the coffee dock area in Bolton Street from 7-9. All are welcome. The society is preparing for the chess intervarsity in March.

CULCHIE SOC

February will see our resident Bolton street bidders (the only soc with three toy tractors) host the Culchie ceilie. Watch out around campus for more information

LEISURE MANAGEMENT

The society has over 70 members heading to Liverpool in March is planning to have a couple of society nights out in February

POKER SOC

Feeling lucky? If so the poker soc are meeting every Tuesday in the canteen in Bolton at 5.30. All are welcome

REJECT MUSICAL SOCIETY

Since they've done belly dancing the society is switching to pole dancing for a change. Watch out Mountjoy Square's quirky society has a fest of treats like this in store for February.

MOUNTJOY SQUARE DRAMA

Are continuing a series of workshops with outside facilitators every Wednesday in the drama room on the third floor at 6.30pm.

BOLTON ST & CATHAL BRUGHA DRAMA

Production has begun on two plays for the DIT drama festival the Blue room and a new play called the next big thing.

OVERALL DRAMA

Are holding there overall drama week from the 27th February to the 11th March. It is promised to be two weeks of drama that will have you on the edge of your seat. For more information log onto, socs.dit.ie

DRAMA KEVIN STREET

Workshops being held every Tuesday in the basement of Kevin Street, 8.30 @ 6pm.

DANCE AUNGIER STREET

Dance workshops are recommencing, and dates and times are to be confirmed within the next few days, so log onto socs.dit.ie for more information.

Art and Design Week 2006

It's that time of year again, when Mountjoy Sq and Portland Row have their very own Art and Design Week. The week will be taking place at the end of March before we all escape to our Easter holidays. The first meeting will be taking place in Mountjoy Sq at 1.30 in Room 205. As per tradition the week will include an all encompassing theme (last year it was the wild west), a banquet held in Mountjoy Sq and a themed ball. Events and on site activities will also take place all week. We need as many hands on deck as we can, so if you like the idea of being D.J. on the night, organising some unique events or just helping to decorate don't feel shy!

By: Rebecca O'Neill
Part time officer for Art & Design
086 368 15 01

College Sloganeering Now Rampant Around Ireland

HUMOUR CORNER

BY HIERONYMOUS HEGARTY

Eagle-eyed students may have noticed that DIT has been running an advertising campaign aimed at CAO form-fill-ers. This column has received exclusive misinformation from a highly disreputable source that the slogan used – 'DIT: It's a step closer to the real world' – was narrowly chosen ahead of a number of alternative mottoes.

The slogan 'DIT: A step closer to flogging its prime city centre real estate and slouching off to a disused mental hospital in the suburbs was suggested, but its marketing potential was considered limited.

The following slogans were also rejected:

DIT: We have no English department; never read a book that won't make you money.

DIT: Many of our graduates are actually gainfully employed (and not just in bookshops either).

DIT: We do not play cricket: that's what Trinity is for.

DIT: We do not encourage independent thought. Your future employers will like this.

DIT: DCU later.

DIT: A step closer to finally shedding its 'IT' status, if only the authorities would recognise us, curse their elitist hides.

Suggested slogans for other colleges:

TCD: A step closer to a purely theoretical understanding of the world. We're serious; you'll even have forgotten how to tie your shoelaces after 4 years here.

UCG: Just try to ignore the crusties playing bongo drums.

DCU: Work will seem like fun when we've finished with you.

UL: Limerick is a beautiful, friendly and, above all, safe city in which to study. Soak up the completely non-violent atmosphere of our campus. Now with metal detectors.

UCD: "Ohmygod! UCD is like, so, like, ohmygod!" A UCD student endorses her college

NUI Maynooth: With its proud tradition of theology, philosophy and cider parties, Maynooth has been producing enlightened, liver-damaged graduates for centuries.

DBS: We're not a proper college at all. Don't know what we're doing here.

Griffith College: The suggestion that any of our staff have connections to Sinn Féin is malicious mischief making and is highly damaging to the third level education process.

Marino Institute: Mura dtuigeann tu seo 'se Coláiste na Tríonoide an áit duit, a mhadra Shasanaigh lofa!

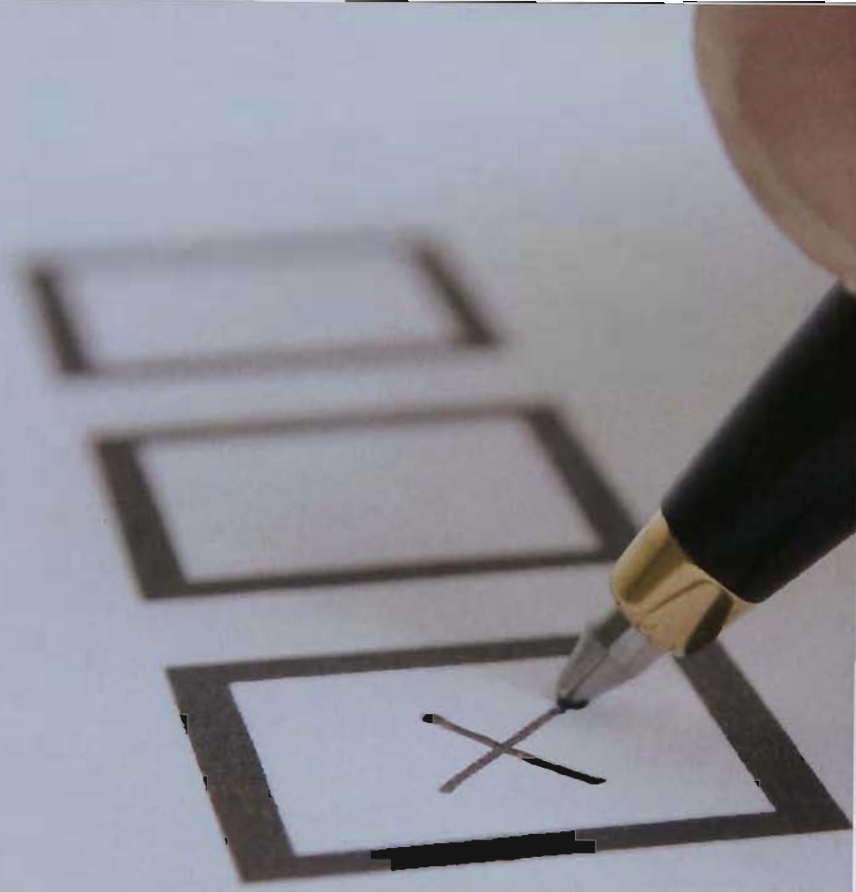
College of Surgeons: Fed up with the high points aspiring medics must achieve in their Leaving? Daddy's a doctor? Got a few hundred grand to spare? No problem! Give us a call today.

And last, but not least, lest they should develop some kind of massive inferiority complex:

UCC: Cork is the best city in Ireland, way, way better than Dublin, like, and how many jazz festivals does Dublin have and how many times was it European Capital of Culture and Cork has the longest corridor in the country, way, way longer than any corridor in Dublin, like, and we have Murphy's, which is way, way nicer than Guinness, like, and Keano... (This is an edited version of the UCC slogan, which runs to 14,000 words in total)

...and what about our three All Ireland titles... (Apologies, readers, please give us a moment)

This is a satirical piece of writing and the contents of the article should not be taken seriously.



Election Nominations

DIT Students' Union Elections 2006/2007

- President
- Vice President (Academic and Student Affairs)
- Vice President (Services and Trading)

NOMINATIONS OPEN

Friday 17th February at 9:00am

NOMINATIONS CLOSE

Friday 24th February at 1:00pm

Application Forms are available in your local SU Office or can be downloaded from www.ditsu.ie



dit students' union
www.ditsu.ie

JBM Version of Male Grooming

FASHION

BY LILI FORBERG

This is really a story without words, for only the eyes are needed to appreciate these four drop dead gorgeous actors and models who are represented by JBM. 'They have', in the words of their agent Julian Benson 'natural talent and an international appeal.' He should know.

Although reticent to comment on his own track record, it's no secret that Benson is an *ami de maison* of more than a few international designers. He has produced international fashion shows and taught super models how to sashay. He is also an established actor's agent and runs his own stage school - Starstruck Stage School. He knows what casting directors want on both sides of the Atlantic. Nikki Ryan, deputy head of the crosscutting developments at JBM says, 'these four young men are just so professional yet unassuming, and that makes them all the more appealing.'

Two of the guys, Eoin Macken and Donal Patterson, are already established while JJ Gibbons and JG Murphy are newcomers to JBM. I wondered how much time these four guys set aside for

grooming and what, if any, was the secret to their success.

Eoin Macken will be familiar from his latest role on the big screen where he played alongside Brendan Gleeson in 'Studs'. It was screened recently as part of the Jameson Film Festival. A skilled actor, he can change his look in seconds. 'Well my hair is sort of long so it can be sleeked back for a certain look or just let loose with a bit of product for another.' He also changes his look by growing some stubble, 'if they want the rough look.' Eoin works out quite a bit to keep himself in shape and avails of his gym's sauna 'for deep cleansing'. Then he uses the full range of Clarins mens products. 'Lads, don't forget to tone' is Eoin's advice. Depending on what part he's auditioning for, Eoin dresses to play the role.

JJ Gibbons is a Bohemian and a chameleon. With one look he is the continental aristocrat, a member of the *jeunesse dorée* or your typical Vogue Magazine male model. With another he's young, carefree, flirty and mega sexy. It is amazing how different JJ could look. 'When I was a teenager I suffered from acne like most guys', he says. 'I have sensitive skin so my cousin who is a beautician recommended some

products from the Decléor mens range and they're terrific. Her advice of cleansing, moisturizing and toning has kept my skin in order.' For his day job, as an art dealer and assistant gallery curator, he wears sharp cut tailored suits or smart casual preppy gear. To relax he wears 'combats, rugby shirt and a pair of dubs'.

Donal Patterson, is known throughout most of the globe for snogging that girl on the MacDonalds add. His most recent film is 'Ghostwood'. Donal's look is understated boy next door with oodles of sex appeal, he's a natural actor and a casting agent's dream. Donal's beauty regime is simple, straightforward and doesn't cost a thing - sleep and plenty of it. 'When I'm filming, I'm constantly on the go and bags under the eyes are not a good look! I take every opportunity to put my head down, even if it's only for a 15 minute power nap'. I also find using a face mask once a month helps to keep my skin looking fresh. It also helps slough away dead skin cells that can make skin look dull.'

JG Murphy is young, hip and with it. Yet he has an endearing shy quality about him. 'I tend to use a cleanser instead of a face wash as I find that washing my face too often dries

my skin out. I also drink plenty of water as it's the best moisturizer and a great re-hydrator'. Being an actor/model is all about the look and unfortunately your shelf life can be limited, so prolonging my skins youthfulness is paramount. Another important regime is having a hair cut every six to eight weeks. It's an area some guys tend to forget about but a good hair cut makes the world of difference to a look. I see Michael Doyle in Peter Marks, St. Stephens Green every two months or so'.

When they've finished on the shoot, they cleanse down and acquaint themselves with their own natural style and elegance. They take Yves St Laurent's advice to heart: 'Don't burn your wings at fashion's flame' and to paraphrase WB Yeats they successfully separate the dancer from the dance.

All photography by: Lili Forberg
www.misslili.net

Make-up by: Nichola Graham
www.themakeuproom.ie

BELOW (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT)

DONAL - Donal's look is understated boy next door with oodles of sex appeal.

EOIN MACKEN - Ordinarily Eoin's own style is hip.

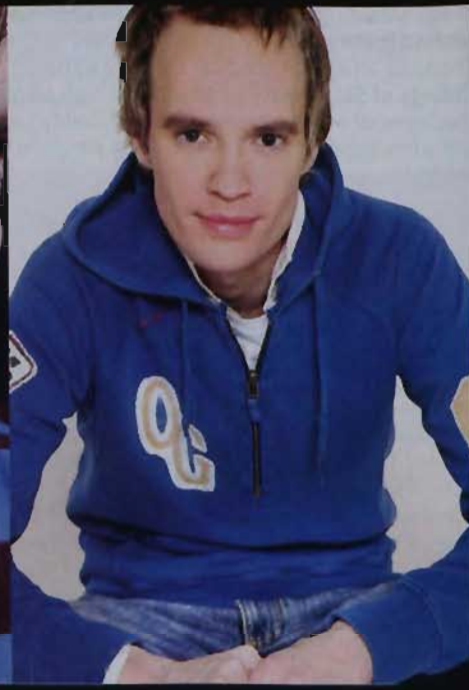
JJ GIBBONS - JJ is young carefree, approachable and flirty.

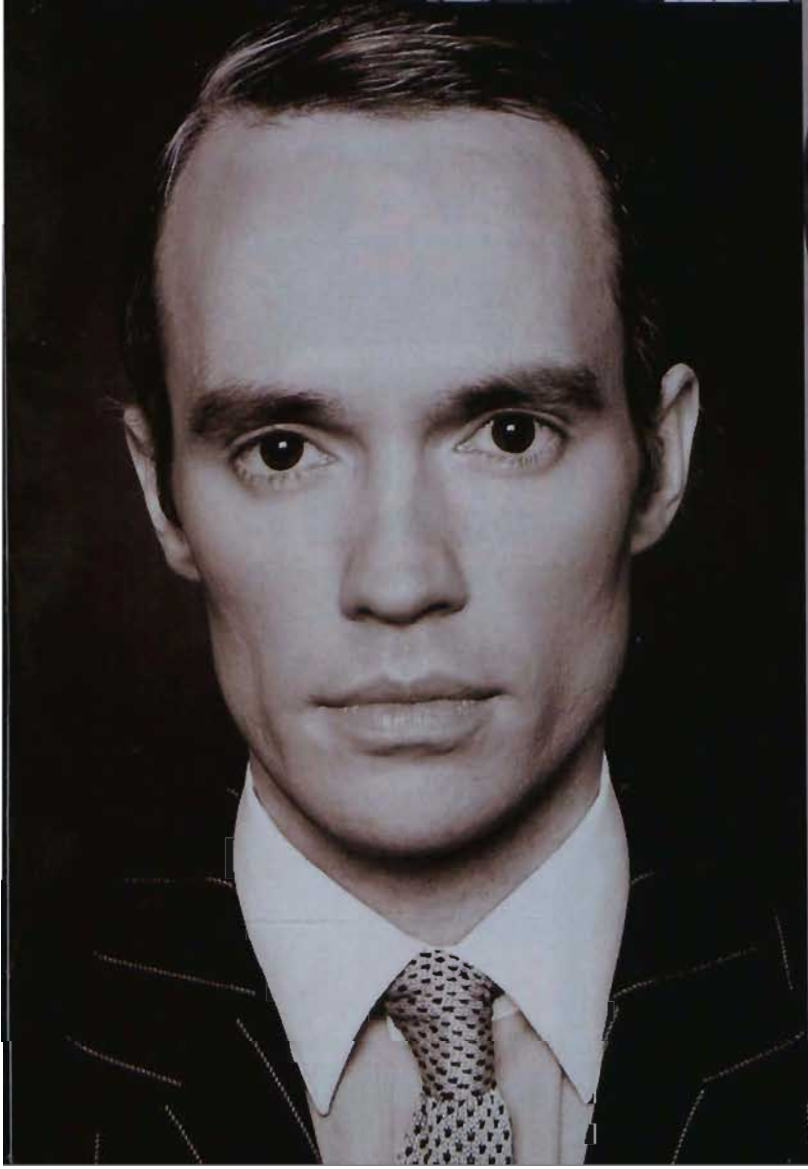
OPPOSITE (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT)

EOIN MACKEN - Eoin's hair is sort of long so it can be sleeked back.

JG MURPHY is young, hip and with it.

JJ GIBBONS - JJ, your typical Vogue Magazine male model





Student Questionnaire

Here is the Student Questionnaire that you have all been waiting for. Here at The Compact we want to see how you, the students, are dealing with life in DIT. All you have to do is fill out the questionnaire and hand it into your local Students' Union Office and in the next edition of The Compact we will be looking at the results of the Questionnaire. So please fill it out and get the March edition of the Compact to get the results!!

PERSONAL DIFFICULTY

What's the biggest problem facing students today?

- (A) Financial strain
- (B) Fitting in
- (C) Exams
- (D) Depression
- (E) Sexual Health
- (F) Other

How do you find the solution to a problem?

- (A) Go it alone for a few days to give myself a chance to think
- (B) Go about the day as normal and hope it will work itself out
- (C) Share it with someone
- (D) Other

Who would you go to if you had a problem?

- (A) A family member
- (B) A friend
- (C) DIT staff member
- (D) DIT counselling services
- (E) Students' Union
- (F) Other

How do you divide your time when faced with a problem?

- (A) Drink more
- (B) Study more
- (C) Earn more
- (D) Think about it more
- (E) Other

YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE

Do you worry about the future?

- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) Don't know

What do you worry about the most in the future?

- (A) Health
- (B) Finances
- (C) Academic record
- (D) Rising house prices
- (E) Relationships
- (F) Other

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU

Which relationships are most important to you?

- (A) Family
- (B) Friends
- (C) Boyfriend/girlfriend
- (D) Professional
- (E) Other

Have you ever taken drugs?

- (A) Yes
- (B) No

What kind of drugs?

- (A) Hash
- (B) Cocaine
- (C) E
- (D) Speed
- (E) All of the above
- (F) Other

Do you think taking drugs is

- (A) Cool
- (B) Sexy
- (C) Pathetic
- (D) Stupid
- (E) Waste of time
- (F) Other

YOUR OPINION ON DIT

Could DIT do more for you?

- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) Don't Know

What could they do?

- (A) Better funding for student welfare
- (B) More continuous assessment instead of exams
- (C) They do enough
- (D) Better funding for sports & societies
- (E) Other

How could library services be improved?

- (A) Longer opening hours
- (B) Reduced fines
- (C) Ability to book some of the computers in advance
- (D) Other

Could DIT do more for its sporting students?

- (A) Provide student grants for national athletes
- (B) More actively encourage student participation in sport
- (C) Make the student body aware of sporting achievements
- (D) Other

STUDENT LIFE

What's the best thing about being a student?

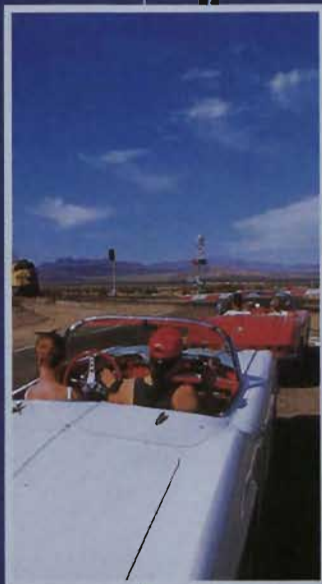
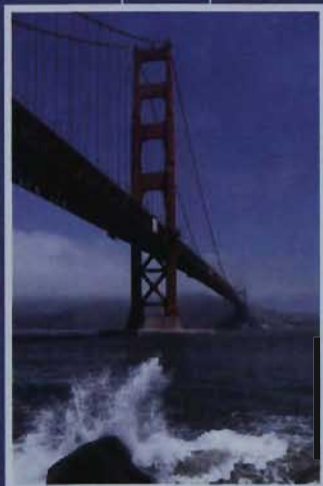
- (A) Making friends
- (B) Independence
- (C) Freedom of choice
- (D) Nothing
- (E) Don't know
- (F) Other

Is college what you thought it would be?

- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) Don't know

Does college prepare you for real life?

- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) Don't know



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€40 deposit payable at time of application (non-refundable).
J1 programme is subject to terms, conditions and availability.



Treat Yourself with a Breakfast Smoothie

STUDENT GOOD GUIDE

BY URSULA MANGAN

CYO FOOD AND JUICE CO.

22 Wexford St,
The Village Quarter,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: food@cyoju.com
Tel: 01 4053945

Catering for the Hungover as well as the Health-conscious.

CYO Food and Juice Co.

Out of Reach?

Located only a hop, skip and a jump from Kevin street and perhaps a 3 minute walk from Aungier, there's no excuse for us students not to be getting our recommended daily allowance of vitamin C.

Juices have recently been hailed as a super hangover cure and this place makes some really yummy ones, but if you don't think you could stomach it after a rough night at Spirit, The CYO Food and Juice Co. also offers much more, including the traditional and trusty Full Irish breakfast.

What's the Story?

This café/restaurant/juice bar, as common as it may sound, actually stands out miles from the rest of them. 'CYO' stands for 'create your own'. There's a large salad counter located in the middle of the café and here is where you grab a tray and create your own salad or sandwich. You simply then hand this to the person at the till where it is priced according to weight.

The atmosphere is really laid back and informal with cushioned benches and wooden stools for seating. The place is pretty small too, adding to the cosiness and charm. The staff are a very friendly bunch and are most welcoming of us financially challenged students!

Taste Sensation or Sewage Generation?

Don't expect your usual sloppy tuna mayo on white here either, there are a great variety of tasty salads and atypical breads to choose from. Think olives, sundried tomato hummus, fresh basil pesto, sautéed mushrooms and homemade salsa to name just a few of the exotic fillings. Breads come in all shapes, sizes and colours. Focaccia, ciabattas, wraps, crusty baguettes and traditional slice pan are all on offer.

Soups are scrumptious and vary everyday. Also available are two dishes of the day, one vegetarian and one regular, for something more substantial. The last day they were serving Meatballs for the meat eaters and Veggie spring rolls for, well, the veggies.

Another major selling point of the Food and Juice Co. are it's delectable juices and smoothies. They are all made straight in front of you and nearly every single one contains whole fresh fruit and vegetables. Just ask for one already on the menu or get them to make one up on the spot with your favourite fruits, etc. 'The Breakfast Smoothie' is one the most popular and is very handy for those of us who've slept in through the most important meal of the day! If you really need a good energy boost or detoxification, then the 'Monday Morning' is the one for you. The recipes for both of these are given below.

Price wise: Brown Thomas or Bargain Town?

I won't lie, this place isn't the cheapest but it certainly isn't the most expensive either. Good size sandwiches generally weigh in at between 4.50 and 5.50, salads are a bit more, between 5.00 and 6.00. Smoothies are 3.95 each and juices are between 3.50 and 4.50. Soup of the day is 3.25 take away and 3.85 sit in. Dish of the day is approx 10.00. But I have to say, I really don't mind paying for my food, especially at this quality.

Breakfast Smoothie

Ingredients:

50g Alpen/Muesli
1 Banana
300ml Milk
1 tsp Honey

Method:

Throw all ingredients into a blender together, put on the LID! Press the bottom, whiz up and there you have your very own scrumptious liquid breakie.

Monday Morning Juice

Ingredients:

2 Carrots
2 Apples
½ Cucumber
½ Beetroot
1cm Ginger

Method:

You'll need a Juicer for this one. Run all the ingredients through the juicer into a large glass and stir. Add ice if desired.





are you a student ...
journalist
writer
photographer
script writer
film maker
web designer
involved in radio or tv?

**do you want to fast
track your career?**

**can you hold your own
against students from
across the country?**

there's only one way to find out ...
enter the **oxygen.ie**
national student
media awards 2006

SMEDIA

go to **www.oxygen.ie**
for details



Indo Watchout! Here Comes the Mail

The arrival of the Irish Daily Mail will add another newspaper into the already saturated media market. It started on Monday 6th of February with a free copy for readers and from Tuesday to Friday, it sold for thirty cent. Saturday's edition cost thirty-five cent and the normal retail price is expected to be seventy-five cent.

BUSINESS FEATURE

BY MICHELLE LAHERTY

This may be good for readers, as competition is welcomed in comparison to a monopoly, but what of the other papers. Undoubtedly, if the Irish Daily Mail hopes to prosper, it will have to find a clientele. It seems that Anthony O'Reilly's Independent News and Media will be affected.

At the moment the Irish Independent is the most popular daily newspaper. It has a circulation of 164,000 a day and 150,000 of these sell at the full price of 1.60 euro. The Independent also has the compact version in addition to the broadsheet and sales of each are evenly split.

Currently the Independent News and Media are spending 2 million euro a year on Herald A.M. Nevertheless, they still engage in elaborate advertising campaigns to boost the sales of their titles.

The Daily Mail has had sales in Ireland of 10,000 up to this but there 1 million euro plus advertising campaign, 200,000 printed copies, 'rock bottom' prices and an extensive giveaway programme is evidence that the Daily Mail want to conquer Ireland.

According to the executive editor, Paul Drury, they hope to have daily sales of 40,000 but they do not have "a business plan with a certain sales figure."

In the Daily Mail itself they have described themselves as being the "one that cares about the things you care about. And which isn't afraid to say what you think - not what others tell you to think."

There has been a long personal battle between Martin Clarke, the associate editor of the Irish Daily Mail and the Independent. Clarke was originally the editor in chief of Ireland on Sunday. Gossip columnists in the Sunday Independent criticised Clarke while Ireland on Sunday referred to the Independent as the 'Indecline'.

The launch of the Daily Mail will shift the 'balance of power' in the media market. Many newspapers can't handle the pressure of competition and many have folded, such as the Irish Press.

The Irish Daily Star looks like it will be affected. It is also a possibility that the Daily Mail could even affect the Irish Times readership, but that depends on its success.

It is not a typical 'red top' paper and it does have a lot more copy than tabloids that may be an advantage. On the other hand, well established papers such as the Irish Times, the Examiner have a strong readership that expects a certain standard.

It will be interesting to see if the Daily Mail can establish themselves firmly in the Irish market. Perhaps the real question is, just how far are they prepared to go to gain readership?



Ireland's Cycling Future.....Is it Bright?

Let's go back a few years and a few more to the glamorous year of 1987, truly the pinnacle of Irish cycling, one that is now etched in the Irish sporting annals.

SPORTS

BY ANDREW HUSSEY

What one man achieved in what is seen as one of the most gruelling sports in the world is phenomenal.

Now I gather you all know whom I'm talking about? Yes that's right Stephen Roche. Born in Dublin in 1959 this young man went on to achieve the ultimate goals of cycling. He successfully completed and I add won the Giro d'Italia, the World Championships and the Tour d'France. Not many professional cyclists can say that, not even the great Lance Armstrong. Now Stephen wasn't the only Irish cyclist making waves in the late 80's early 90's there was also the great Sean Kelly, who since the late 70's had begun to impress himself on the cycling world and throughout his 20 year career notched up 180 professional wins, as well as 4 green jersey titles at the tour de France which was a record that was only recently beaten by Marcus Zabel, a German Sprinter. From these accolades he has proven himself as one of the best sprinters ever produced in cycling.

Along side these two fine athletes came Paul Kimmage and Martin Earley both proven team riders and Earley claiming a stage win in both the Giro and Tour.

Alongside the heavyweight names of our Nations cyclists

we had the Nissan Classic which brought together top cyclists from around the world and placed Ireland on the map from which we could have built.....

Alas this was a dream that I felt was killed by Jack Charlton and his green armies exploits in Germany in 1988. Now don't get me wrong I am a strong fan of football and our achievements, but I do feel we missed a great opportunity with the success of our cyclists.

Now the year been 2006 I feel there is a growing consensus that cycling is on the rise again and for it the better. Firstly I'll have to thank TG4 for their coverage of the Tour d'France (even though I swore at the tv wishing I had paid more attention in school when it came to Irish)

The biggest news to hit Irish cycling came back in September 2005 when the UCI (International Cycling Union) elected an Irish man, Pat McQuaid to be its President and he has said he will do all in his power to help Irish cycling.

Along side this news came even more (when it rains it pours) was the announcement of the Sean Kelly Racing team. This is a landmark event by any means, as Ireland has now a professional team in which our up and

coming riders can experience the ups and downs on the pro circuit. The team will be based in Belgium, where Sean has had a cycling academy, where Irish cyclists trained and is supported by the Irish Sports Council. Sean hopes to build a solid foundation of cyclists and in some years can join the ranks in the Pro tour.

Currently we have 3 Irish cyclists in the Pro Tour, both Mark Scanlon and Philip Deignan. Who are with the French team Ag2R and Nicholas Roche, son of Stephen but by no means is living in his shadow, races with Cofidis.

I can say that cycling never died away, we still hold the impressive FBD Insurance Race every year which draws good talent from around the world. You only need the drive around the Wicklow Mountains any day of the week to see that dedication or any where else in Ireland.

So with Sean Kelly's involvement again and our 3 pro-tour cyclists and not forgetting the UCI director Pat McQuaid is should be an interesting year.....and hopefully a fruitful one.

Please check out the Website for more info on Sean's Team
www.seankellycyclingacademy.com/



Irish Film Festival Makes it's Mark

The fourth Jameson Dublin International Film Festival takes place in Dublin from the 17th to 26th of February. Launched by Ireland's very own Cillian Murphy on February 1st, it is already generating great excitement with the promise of over one hundred films from around the globe.

ENTERTAINMENT

BY LINDSAY CLEARY

Film screenings take place in Cineworld, The Savoy, Screen and The Irish Film Institute. Last year's total audience attendance was over 30,000 with even more expected this year.

The festival is divided into different seasons and events, so there will surely be something to suit everybody's tastes.

The Reel to Reel Documentary Season does exactly what it says on the tin, boasting a wide range of documentary films from America, Canada and Europe. Covering subjects as diverse as heavy metal, cycling and business - it looks set to be an interesting section of the festival.

Olé Olé Olé is a season which should appeal to all the sports fans. It screens films and documentaries gathered around the theme of football. The films come from as far afield as Iceland, so expect some varied and interesting perceptions of The Beautiful Game!

Sponsored by Chartbusters, World Cinema Panorama provides a film from a different country, each day for ten days. Those of you who aren't opposed to reading subtitles can view films from Germany, Hungary, Taiwan, South Africa and more.

The American film industry has been dishing out countless well received independent films of late, and the Jameson Dublin International Film Festival has no less than nineteen for you to choose from. The States of Independence season should draw huge numbers of curious viewers, with a host of new, young filmmakers making waves on the indie movie circuit.

North of Hollywood - a Season of Canadian Cinema provides more viewing pleasure from across the Atlantic. Seven very different films make up this season, showcasing a sample of the talent which Canada has to offer. And finally, we return home for a Season of Irish Cinema. Home-grown films have always been a key element to the Jameson Dublin International Film Festival, and this year is no exception. From the collection of Film Board Shorts to world premiers of films by Mercier and Hammond, this year looks set to be a showcase of great Irish talent, displaying the continuing growth of our film industry.

The festival also provides a series of discussion events around the city, giving festival members a chance to consider filmmaking issues such as film budgets and The Impact of Digital Cinema, as well as forums and discussions with people working in the industry. A Conversation with Simon Perry, chief executive of the Irish Film Board, takes place in the Irish Film Institute on February 21st.

If that's not enough to drag you out of bed after the excesses of RAG week, the red carpet is being rolled out for a host of special guests such as Brendan Gleeson, Patrick Bergin, Vinnie Jones, Daniel Day-Lewis, Ralph Fiennes and more.

Further information on festival membership, tickets and screening times is available at www.dubliniff.com

Films to go to

'Syriana'

One film stirring it up within the inner circles of movie buffs everywhere is the long awaited 'Syriana' by hard hitting director Stephen Gaghan. Starring an over-ripe George Clooney, who packed on 35 pounds to portray the ground soldier Barnes, this is undoubtedly Clooney's most intense role to date making a welcome change to his usual dapper Dan type-cast appeal. Focusing on the global corruption left in the wake of oil hungry countries and corporations it dares to not only ask the questions but throw the answers back in stark reality, thus exposing the end-of-the-line personal atrocities. Get your tickets early folks, you have been warned! (Sat 18- Savoy 1)

'L'Enfant'

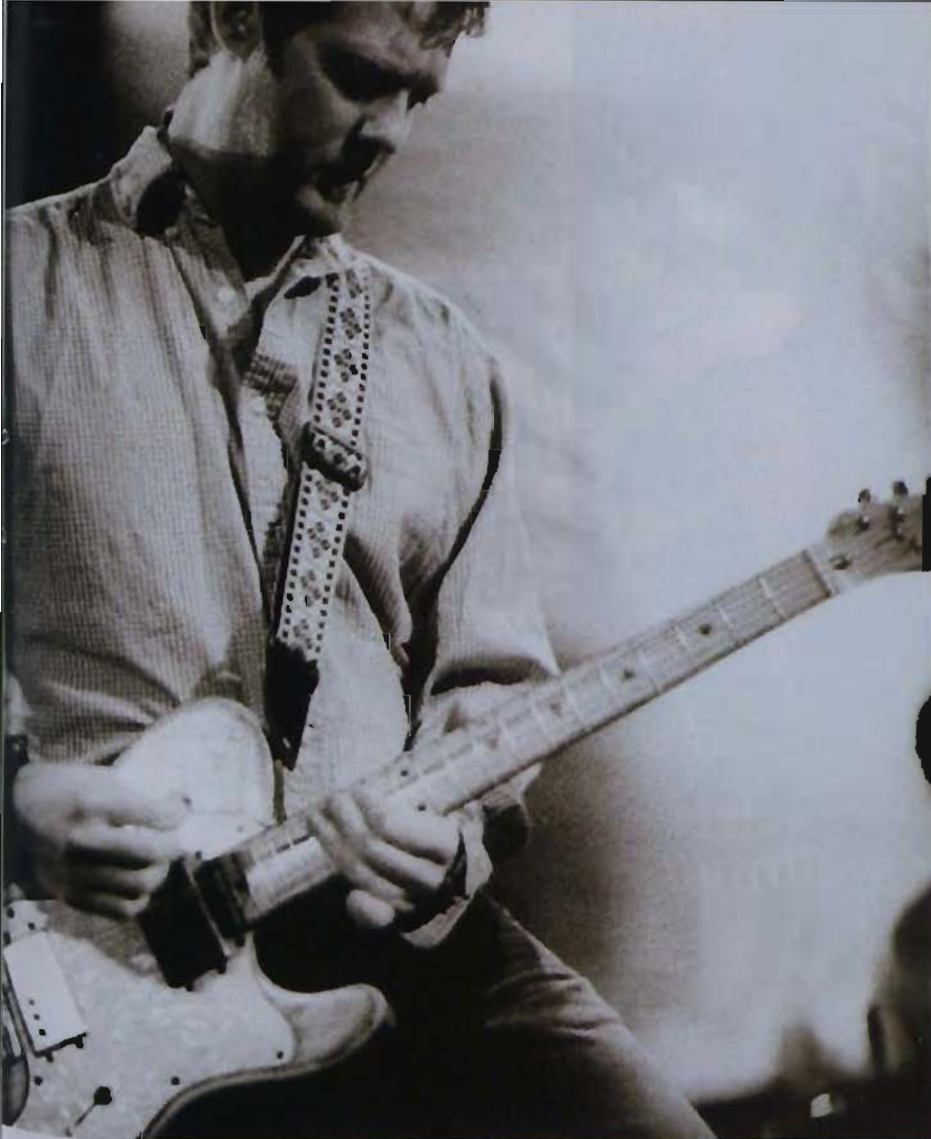
Winner of the Cannes Palme D'Or is the latest brainchild of the Dardene brothers and top of my menu. This outing charts the exploits of a young couple who have thus far survived the various criminal exploits of the male lead Bruno. The movie opens with Sonja (Bruno's partner) leaving the hospital with their first born. She encapsulates his driving passion and his raison d'être but viewers are left wondering if the baby will force a wedge in their adolescent ideologies. This wonderful serving skates through the issues of adoption, crime, homelessness and the young couples need for a carefree existence. A must see with the humour and talent expected from the Dardene's prevalent throughout. (Wed 22- Screen 1)

'C.S.A. Confederate States of America'

If you like your aftertaste a little bitter why not try this historical turnabout docu-style drama. A mouthful indeed but there are some seriously weighty issues on offer. This film delves into the 'would-be' present day situation had the south won the civil war. A snapshot of life where the 'C.S.A.' allied with Hitler's Arian race take over Europe and where internet slavery auctions are now common place. Assured to raise eyebrows and pulses, don't miss this wonderfully macabre gem. (Mon 20- Screen 2)

The list goes on and with well over 100 films to choose from over the course of the festival you'll not be left wanting. Others to add to your list are 'Lobo' an E.T.A. based Spanish film and 'New York Doll', charting the re-launch of the band spurred by none other than Smiths front-man, Morrissey. By no means stop there otherwise you'll be passing up the chance to see a comic book brought to life by first-time director, long-time cartoonist Dave McKean and a desperate housewife playing a trans-gender man. One mega-popcorn and a vat of cola please!

By: James Clinch



The Frames Bask In An Indian Summer

GIG REVIEW

BY LINDSAY CLEARY

The Frames' legendary gigs have always created huge excitement and even bigger Ticketmaster queues. Large venues such as Marlay Park and Punchestown have been host to crowds of people during their shows; many of whom hadn't even heard of the band three months earlier.

This gig at Vicar Street was a stark contrast to the masses of people jumping in mud and screaming back the lyrics to 'Revelate', with Glen Hansard running around the stage like the Energizer Bunny on amphetamines. The point of this show was not to reduce the crowd to a hoarse, tired mess, but rather to showcase songs from their upcoming album to a fully seated audience. Even the audience members were different; less long-haired students and more professional 'grown-ups' would you believe?

Even though the majority of the songs they played were previously unheard of, the crowd were very receptive and quite honoured to be getting a preview of what could well be another classic album from the well-travelled band. The songs spoke for themselves: melodic, sweet and heartfelt – all telling stories of love, loss and friendship.

The band performed like it was a stadium tour, playing each song as if their lives depended on it. For a band that has been making records since 1992, it's impressive that they still have the passion and drive of a teenage band practising in the shed. No matter how many album sales or sold-out gigs they have under their collective belt, they still see the need to keep writing and working just as hard. Hopefully their next album, 'Burn the Maps', will see The Frames holding their throne as one of the best-loved and talented.

The Frames
Vicar Street
Tuesday, 7th February 2006.



Steve Reid Ensemble Spirit Walk (Soul Jazz)

Such is jazz in 2006 that a 61-year old drummer might unlock its future. But after thirty years in the wilderness, Steve Reid has teamed with some younger luminaries on Spirit Walk to give jazz some of its bite back.

Reid has a backstory that could fill volumes at seventeen, Reid played on Martha and the Vandellas' 'Heatwave' and sat with everyone from Sun Ra to Fela Kuti before expatriating to Switzerland. For Spirit Walk, Reid has assembled a remarkably forward-sounding ensemble, which includes Kieran Hebden, aka Fourtet. Hebden's name will give some musos hot flashes, but his contribution is largely reined in.

From the soaring opener 'Lugano' through the Ahmed Abdullah-penned 'Lions of Juda', Reid's dense, melodic drumming steers the ship. Blissful and keening, the spirit of Coltrane, once Reid's neighbour, hovers throughout, making even Spirit Walk's self-indulgent plunges, like the fourteen-minute 'Drum Story', forgivable.

After surviving such a journey, this drummer has earned his rant.

By: Donald Mahony



JCB Band Announce New Irish Dates

Mon 6th March	Whelans, (Dublin)
Tues 7th March	Roisin Dubh, (Galway)
Wed 8th March	Port Laoise (special show 70/80 cap) sold out
Thurs 9th March	Cypress Avenue, (Cork)
Fri 10th March	Dolans Warehouse, (Limerick)

'Girls' will be released on March 27th through Pinnacle Records.

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DIT Battle of the Bands Winners

Last years winners of the DIT Battle of the Bands, Jemson Green share their band history, views and their passion for what they do in an evocative and frank interview with Trevor Seery.

ENTERTAINMENT

BY TREVOR SEERY

The members of the band include Ronan Power (Vocals), Shay O'Connell (Guitar) and Vinnie O'Connell (Bass) and Shaun Costello (Drums) - all Dubliners except for Shaun.

The band began their journey eight months ago in the basement of Isaac Butts pub in Dublin town. They then begun writing their own music and touring the Dublin gig scene whilst making a name for themselves with their style and power. One of the band said: "It all came together when they music began to click and work."

The band all cite different music influences including punk, grunge, thrash metal and rock. With the entire band contributing equally to the creative process, I asked what kind of style or genre would they classify themselves as? "The way rock should be," Shaun said back. "The music industry is run by some - but not all tone deaf critics - guys who tend to put on big name acts. Dublin is the capital of Ireland yet very limited as to what you can do, there should be 20 or more proper venues."

The band have played the Dublin scene and an opportunity has arisen to now play in Liverpool, only last week Atlantic Records (US) approached them with a record deal, their first. So the future seems to be very bright and Green for them

I was curious as to the name of the band and they told me it came from when they were out drinking one night a few bottles of Jameson whiskey was consumed and in the morning the first thing seen was empty bottles. One of the guys said he felt as green as the Jemson and JEMSON GREEN was born.

As I was conducting the interview one of the band got an exclusive phone call, a DJ called Richie from a Dublin radio station called New Fm 101.3 was on the far end of the line, he said that the station along with his segment called 'Showcase' was getting behind Jemson Green's music for an EP launch and also the single 'Falling Down' which would be the launch piece. Dolphin Records have now offered to release their E.P. that will be recorded in the near future - using the prize from D.I.T. of recording time.

This is a band with much to do and the capability to achieve it, keep an watchful eye out as you might see them at a well known festival in Punchestown if they are successful in their Oxygen bid, with support from Near FM, Phantom FM and Dublin South, this just might be a reality.

The band would like to Thank DIT and Near FM. For more info on them check out www.jemsongreen.com, next gig is Feb 25th in Eamonn Dorans

World Service Journalism

ENTERTAINMENT

BY ALYS HARTE

Louise Williams is a freelance radio journalist. She has just completed a documentary series for BBC World Service on the impact the Asian Tsunami had on the religious faith of those who survived. Louise was born and grew up in Ireland.

Initially, what was it about radio as a medium that you found interesting?

I grew up listening to the radio, The Gay Byrne Show and programmes like that, but it wasn't until I was in my mid-twenties, while I was working as a translator, that I developed a fascination with the world of international broadcasting.

How would you describe your job title?

I usually say presenter/producer, but I work as a reporter as well. I do a bit of everything, which can be a good thing and it can be bad thing. I would love to be presenting all of the time, (and I would be a very rich person if I were) but it hasn't worked out that way.

When did you start working in radio?

When I was working the Netherlands as a translator, I saw a job advertisement in the paper for a Radio Journalist and I thought 'That's it! That's the job for me!' So I recorded myself on a Dictaphone reading some article from the paper, which must have been absolutely dreadful because they wrote back and said you have absolutely no qualifications, which is true, and that I didn't have a good voice for radio. I wrote back and offered them translating work if in exchange for work in journalism. My CV fell on the desk of the Head of the English Department at Radio Netherlands, and for whatever reason, he gave me a shot. It was through working in the news room three mornings a week that I picked up the fundamental skills for radio. I was never trained - it was just a case of asking question after question.

What have you found to be the most difficult aspects of your job?

The constant rejection - that's really hard. I have had a good number of blows along the way, and that's difficult, but it's something you have to accept along the way. Also the need to continuously come up with new ideas, generate new concepts and

to constantly try to appear fresh to people is difficult. You need to constantly market yourself and the work you're doing, even if you don't feel like doing it. That can be quite stressful.

On the flip side of that, what are the parts of your job that you love? I have had so much freedom to investigate stories, in particular through a series I have just done from South Asia. I was really lucky to get the opportunity to go out with my microphone and explore. Also I love the flexibility of radio. As a radio journalist you have the opportunity to get out from behind your desk, which is something I appreciate hugely. I think it suits me and my character, not to be doing the same thing every day. I like a lot of diversity and I think working on a wire service or for a newspaper, you might not get the same sense of location that you can establish in radio, which is such an exciting thing.

What has been the most memorable part of your career to date?

I think the series I conducted for BBC World Series on South Asia was probably a high point for me. It really was a big deal to be funded and trusted by the BBC World Service to produce and present a four-part series. It was a real confirmation of their trust in me. I feel very lucky to have been given that chance.

Is there any advice in particular that you would give to individuals who are thinking about a career in radio? I really think that it is important that you nurture the relationships with people you already know and the contacts you have made. It's also important to learn to distinguish between the people who will genuinely help you and the person who will promise they will and then refuse to answer your phone calls. I find that in Ireland, that tends to happen a lot, whereas in Britain, I have always found that when people say that they will help you, that they help you and they don't mess about.

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The Games Review

Rugby Challenge 2006 (Xbox)

From Ubisoft, the makers of Jonah Lomu Rugby, comes the first rugby game of 2006. Out in time to coincide with the RBS 6 Nations Tournament, this game offers the world's best tournaments to play in. Play in the RBS 6 Nations, Celtic League and the European Cup amongst other competitions. Featuring all your favourite national teams, it has the provinces, clubs and your favourite players. As well as tournaments and friendlies, this game allows an in depth career mode, including player transfers, coach hiring and financial management. It has a great tutorial mode that takes ten minutes to go through and it teaches all the basics of rugby and how to play it in this game. The game is kept very simple and the playability is much improved for it. Rucks, mauls, scrums, drop kicks and line outs are all so simple to operate that the game flows from one pass to the next. The only real flaw is that there is no online play on the Xbox version, so no opportunity to take on the French for real, but that aside, a thoroughly enjoyable game, out in time to allow us to achieve

that 6 nations glory that might not be achievable in real life.

Call of Duty 2 (Xbox360)

From Infinity Ward and Activision, comes the follow up to the game of the year 2003. On the Xbox360, this is the console first great shooter. Call of Duty returns with more cinematic intensity and chaos than ever before, in World War II's most climactic battles. Play as Russian, British and American soldiers in campaigns from Stalingrad, El Alamein to fighting in the German heartland. As far as intensity goes, there is so much happening around you it's incredible. Everywhere you look there are soldiers shooting and fighting an incredible set of graphics makes this game as close to real war as you would want to get. The Multiplayer online games are fantastic individual and team based games, playing with players from all over the world. Is it worth buying an Xbox360 for this game, most definitely.

by Gregory Fox in association with Escape Entertainment.



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Sex Can be an Act of Passion & Love

FRESHERS COLUMN

BY SHARON VOGIATZI

Keeping with the theme of SHAG week, this poem celebrates sex. It's a natural thing!

Skinny Dipping

We swim in the milkiness
Of moonlight
That falls on the inky
Depths of a rock pool,
Surrounded by shadows,
Fish at our feet.

His eyes gleam
With the reflection
Of moonshine on water,
His dark curls
Merge with the jagged cliffs
That loom in the distance,
His masculinity beneath
The same blanket of ocean
That covers the hills
And valleys of a woman
Untouched.

In anticipation,
We undress ourselves
Of this pool of night
That murmurs rumours
Of lust and romance.
Wordless, we exit,
Wanting
Something magical,
Primal.

We come together,
Urgent,
Demanding,
Hands, mouths, limbs
Intertwining,
Hot on cold,
Cold on hot,
Arching,
Imploding.

So many colours
To match each sensation-
Red for our passion,
Purple the hunger,
Pink with desperate need,
Orange so happy to be found...
Suddenly,
All I see is the
WHITE, WHITE, WHITE, WHITE!
No colour could speak this,
It bursts and it
Fills me,
Erupts from my core and
Dances to my extremities...
We lie there in silence,
Satiated, pulsating,
Drenched by the
White of the moon
That witnessed
Our rainbow.

The Placebo Pint

THE MATURE ANGLE

BY MAJELLA LAVIN

Skinny stout, is it an oxymoron or a placebo pint? That decision is down to the drinking public of Limerick and will determine the fate of Diageo's latest deviation from the humble pint.

Their brainchild is the new "mid-strength" brew and goes on its pilot scheme on the 08th March. The product will be tested for six months in 80 different Limerick bars. Limerick was the chosen destination because it is the most demographically representative part of Ireland (The Irish Times Feb 09th 2006). This new drink is a close relative to the hugely unsuccessful "Guinness Light" launched in 1979 which was a marketing pitch from the school of bad choices, received as it was with the same level of success as Naomi Campbell's singing career.

The important difference between "Guinness Light" and this new product is that "Guinness light" was 3.6% proof where as the "mid-strength" brew is 2.8% with the original black-gold daddio ringing in at 4.2%. So is it likely that this new softer version of the drinking mans poison will catch on?

Clever advertising and promotion will entice drinkers to have a taste but like the white "Kit Kat" or the diet drink you can't beat the real cigar, with Guinness being the Cuban of stouts. This new brew gives the "two for one" adage a whole new spin. Punters get to lever back the same drink with their alcohol consumption almost halved. This will make for a happy drinker, a happy doctor and a happier liver, but most of all for an ecstatic Diageo.

This new ploy is surely not just about promoting the healthy mans pint but more about plumping up the business mans pocket. Paul Morris, Diageo's marketing manager said "this investment furthers Diageo Ireland's commitment to promoting responsible drinking" (The Irish Times Feb 09th 2006) Honorable as the sentiment is the proof of that responsibility will surely lay in the strength of the products feasibility. Should "mid-strength" brew sell like its failed light uncle then would it be safe to assume that safer drinking will be over shadowed by plummeting profits?

It's interesting to see all the products that Diageo have launched. Looking at their website and taking Guinness in isolation there are currently eight different types on offer. The most ingenious of which has to be Draught in a bottle and Draught in a can! Going on these innovations I wonder what the press release for the new brew will be "Mid-strength brew, guaranteed to keep you sober longer".

When it comes to the institution of having a good pint in a good pub, the backward whistle and nod to the jovial barman won't allow for differentiation of draught so drink less, more or the same, just be happy and save Arthur G from the Priory.

Would You Rather be Spiderman or the Taoiseach?

THE 3RD COLUMN

BY ANDREW DEEGAN

Spiderman can scale walls, swing from great heights, has superhuman powers and a hot fiery model for a girlfriend. He has fame as Spiderman, but cannot enjoy it as he is really Peter Parker.

The Taoiseach on the other hand is rich, famous, he has a substantial amount of power over a considerably wealthy economy that is Ireland and has his own private jet.

Sure he has to take the stick and the blame for all the other problems we have. Such problems include the bus service and all the problems associated with it. Only recently has there been a long overdue cash injection for getting some bigger brand new monster buses to assist the growing transport issues in the city centre. Or how about the drastic lack of hospital beds that his colleague Mary Harney must provide. We are all sick of hearing about those hospital beds. Maybe the politicians could take a cut from their lunch and dinner expenses to pay for a few extra beds. Somehow I don't think Miss Harney would like a cut on that particular expense.

Everybody dreams of being rich and famous. How about this for a magical daytrip: Wake one morning, have breakfast in bed courtesy of a swanky hotel, then jet off to a sun kissed beach for cocktails and girls in bikinis, then back in time for dinner in your favourite restaurant in Dublin city all in your own private jet. There is a famous line, adapted quite appropriately by the Spiderman comic books that with great power comes great responsibility. That is definitely true if you are the Taoiseach of Ireland.

In truth I don't think anybody would like to be the Taoiseach, no matter how much money is earned, how much power you gain, giant lunch expenses, or even having a private jet to fulfil a magical daytrip.

It is nice to see that after taking the blame for all the problems of the country together with his fellow politicians, Bertie still has time to look after the little people. Instead of talking a magical daytrip this month, Bertie sent his private jet on a rescue mission for little 11 month old Molly D'Arcy to get an emergency heart transplant over in the U.K. This act of lifesaving goodwill to a single member (not even a voting one!) gave us a rare insight into our Taoiseach. Look out Spiderman, Bertie may be out for a job swap, and as sure as Mary Jane will get kidnapped by evil criminals you don't want his job!



Just Ask Molly

Email your questions to: compact@ditsu.ie

“SHAG Week is about promoting sexual health, if you are choosing to have sex. It’s all about making sure whatever decision you make, it’s one you’re happy with and it’s a safe one.”

Dear Molly,

I noticed the posters for SHAG week. Saw loads of students in their red and black SHAG t-shirts. I was there when the condoms were being handed out and when all the games were being played. After all that I tried to avoid going anywhere but my classes the rest of the week. I feel like a complete freak sometimes, especially on weeks like that. I hate to say it, but right now I don't really have any use for all the condoms that were being handed to me. I didn't want to give the game away in front of my friends so I just took them and pretended like 'this is great!' I know that safe sex is really important and that not enough people my age realise this but I have to ask, am I really the only one who's not completely obsessed with sex?

People are still very shy about being honest about their true feelings towards sex so you often do see a lot of bravado. This front can leave a lot of people feeling alienated since they think they are not sharing in this supposedly universal experience that has got their classmates talking so much. The fact is more people are in the same boat as you than you will ever know. You may just have

to take my word for it – too few people are ready to fess up – but I can assure you that not everyone is having as much sex, fabulous or otherwise, as they might have you think.

SHAG Week is about promoting sexual health, if you are choosing to have sex. It's all about making sure whatever decision you make, it's one you're happy with and it's a safe one. Safe sex IS really important and you're right that not enough people know it. That's why USI and DITSU makes such a big deal about making sure everyone has all the information to keep them safe and healthy. You never know when people might need it.

Whatever you do though, do not let this idea that absolutely everyone has this amazing sex life get the better of you; stick with whatever decision makes you the most comfortable. Sex is by no means the most important thing that you'll ever do in college.

Hi Molly,

I hope you can help. We're first years and we elected our Class Rep back in September when this guy from the Students' Union came into our class. The girl we elected decided to leave our course over Christmas, but now we're having a bit of hassle with one of our projects and on your website it says to talk to our Class Rep!! Any idea what to do?

Hi there,

Well, you are onto the right place anyway. Unfortunately we can lose a lot of Class Reps over the Academic Year because of people dropping out or changing courses or other circumstances, but it's not the end of the world. You're dead right to consider your options now because having a Class Rep is essential, especially at this time of year when there are a lot of assignments given out and there may be ongoing issues arising. Having a Class Rep is one of the easiest ways of dealing with them. Also, without a Class Rep your class may find out about the different activities and events that are being organized by the Students Union and Clubs & Soc's etc.

If any class doesn't have a Class Rep the easiest thing to do is drop into their local Students' Union office and speak to the Student Support Advisor on-site who will be able to tell you all you need to know in order to get back on track. It's just a matter of having an election during class and then dropping the details into the Students Union, and then you're good to go again. Also you can have a chat with any of the local Class Rep Convenors on each site or the Sabbatical Officers – Bob Coggins, Bernadette Farrell and Alan Mac Stiofáin. All of these officers and staff are there to help with any issue / problem / query you may have. Your SSA's on site are:

DIT Aungier Street
Eve Donnelly

DIT Bolton Street
Claire Healey

DIT Cathal Brugha Street
Sarah Murphy

DIT Kevin Street
Mairead Butler

DIT Mountjoy Square
Sharon Hughes

All the SSA's are there during office hours and all contact details are on the website www.ditsu.ie

Tell us what you think about...

Semesterisation / Modularisation

As you are aware the DIT has embarked on the process of modularisation of all courses. As part of this restructuring this year the Academic Calendar is 'semesterised' with the teaching year divided into two semesters of 15 weeks of learning and assessments.

So many of you will have recently completed Semester 1 exams for the first time. Well, what do you think of it all? Is it better? Is there room for improvement anywhere? How has it affected you?

The Students' Union is keen to get feedback from you, the people directly affected by the changes as your input into the continued roll-out of semesterisation / modularisation is vital so that the process is implemented in a positive, fair and student-friendly manner. So let it all out!

Please send any comments (positive or negative) by email at academicaffairs@ditsu.ie or contact Bernadette Farrell, Vice-President for Academic & Student Affairs, directly at 086 603 1075.



Does the Body Rule the Mind or Does the Mind Rule the Body?

HEALTH

BY DAVID WHITE

DIT HEALTH CENTRES

Student Health Service, Aungier St:

Serving the South City DIT colleges; Aungier St, Kevin's Street, Rathmines, Temple Bar, Conservatory of Music.

Situated: Second floor of Aungier St. College
Opening Hours: Mon-Fri: 9.30am-12.30pm, 2.15pm-4.30pm
Contact: (01) 402 3051

Student Health Service, Bolton Street,

Serving the north City DIT colleges; Bolton Street, Mountjoy Square, Cathal Brugha St, Linenhall

Situated: Linenhall Lodge, across from main entrance to Bolton St. College.
Opening Hours: 9am - 12.30 and 1.30 - 4pm
Contact: (01) 402 3614

The DIT health centre provides free medical services for students. "Students should use it. It's free. They can save a lot of money," says the Medical Director at DIT Aungier Street Student Health Centre, Dr. Brendan Clune.

It's early afternoon in his office on the second floor clinic. The waiting room's magazines are well-thumbed and the leather seat covers have been worn smooth. There is an air of quiet efficiency.

The health centre acts as a "primary care" facility and should be the first stop for full-time students with health complaints. "Anyone can walk in that door and get attention", says Dr Clune, who has been working at the health centre since it was established 15 years ago. The centre is like a GP's office, providing a wide range of services from issuing prescriptions and sick certs to diagnosing and treating a host of common ailments.

Students are first assessed by nurses at the health centre, who can deal with a range of issues, from giving advice on methods of contraception and sexual health to providing information regarding asthma and giving up smoking. They also handle routine injections and wound dressing. If necessary, they will refer the student on to a doctor. In all cases the service is completely confidential: a student's medical records are maintained separately from their college records.

There is no charge for the services offered in the health centre. Students referred to services outside the health centre may have to pay

fees, but in general members of the public are entitled to free outpatient service in Ireland. Additionally the charge for attending casualty, usually around €55, is waived with a doctor's note, which the health centre can provide.

The health centre cannot cure all ills, but it has the contacts necessary to provide proper care and treatment. It can also arrange appointments with dentists and opticians.

There are two health centres: one in Aungier Street for Southside campuses and the other in Bolton Street for students based in Northside DIT buildings. Places are limited and it's worth phoning ahead to book your place.

The health centre also runs a Sexual Health screening clinic in the Aungier Street clinic every Tuesday and Friday morning between 10am and 1pm. Appointments can be made through a nurse and a fee of 15 euro applies to cover the cost of the screening tests. Medication is provided free of charge for any Sexually Transmitted Infection detected. As always, confidentiality is paramount.

For further information, see www.dit.ie/DIT/students/support/health



Shag Week

Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance Week launched in conjunction with USI across DIT last week. It kicked off on Monday morning with a SHAG week photo shoot on the Luas Tracks featuring DIT students and two Durex Sperm men. Bernadette Farrell, our Vice President appeared on TV Three's Ireland Am early Tuesday morning alongside the CEO for the IFPA, discussing STI awareness and the SHAG campaign.

The SHAG Luvabalooza was a huge success on Tuesday in Aungier street. With the assistance of Deirdre Cody from the Health Centre, we organised a SHAG area, where we handed out those famous USI SHAG packs and provided information for students. The SHAG pack's contain

a condom, lubricant and sexual health information leaflets. They raise sexual health awareness among students and encourage them to practice safer sex. A few of the lads were spotted looking Shagtastic in those sought after SHAG week T-shirts. The SHAG Fest followed in Spirit nightclub where the Traffic Light Ball and strippers provided an unforgettable visual spectacle! Also, there were many local events that were SHAG themed.

Finally, a massive thank you to everyone who helped out with the SHAG events. The enthusiasm and effort made by students was really fantastic. Many thanks, Ber, Aimee and the Student Affairs Department.







RAG Week 2006 was kicked off to a flying start with the Central Remedial Clinic, (CRC) Bed Push on Monday 13th February.

The Bed Push brought DIT students from all the campuses across the city out to relieve the unsuspecting public of their cash! The aim of the Bed Push was to raise awareness and get cash for the chosen charity the CRC. The Bed Push was justified by the amazing 5000 euro donated to it by students and the public alike. The festivities started as early as 8am in Mountjoy Square and Cathal Brugha Street colleges.

The Bed Push was started in Rathmines College by a group of hardcore Mountjoyers who trekked across the city in some rather fetching night-wear. The fun really got started when the group arrived at DIT Aungier Street where there was a mighty crowd of students waiting with water guns (water) to join the fun! There was also a selection of nuns, (including Mother Mary, AND sister Aimee), tractors, a gorilla and clowns amongst the motley crew.

Once Aungier Street and its occupants had been removed of all spare change the growing posse of students, and of course the bed, made its way to St. Stephens Green, the Mountjoy girls were given a break from pushing the bed for a while as the strapping Aungier St and Kevin St lads took over for a while. The pedestrians of Grafton Street were bombarded with pj-wearing students causing disruption to their lunch times, but all for a very worthy cause. The public was extremely generous with their spare change, but many students felt it was more an attempt to try and stop our boisterous student chanting!

After Grafton Street the 'crew' made their way to O'Connell Bridge, with the usual 'via Trainers' approach, where the students of Trinity were very generous, and the security man who removed us was also very pleasant! The bed then headed up O'Connell Street and onto Henry Street. We reckoned Henry Street was the best fun, the public was really generous and up for a laugh and we got loads of money and everyone was in great form.

We then motored up Parnell Street and our grand finale, the DIT Bolton Street. Everyone arrived exhausted but happy, a lot of money was raised and that was the aim of the game!!

It was a great way to make money and raise awareness and wearing our pj's in public was an added bonus. So well done everyone and thanks to everyone who supported us!

**By: Ashling O'Regan,
Ents Officer DIT Mountjoy Square
(and PJ wearing Bed Pusher!)**



Sponsored Silence

As I walked into Aungier Street on 13th February, first day of RAG week, I expected to be greeted with the usual noise and confusion that is a Monday morning in college plus some additional raucous proceedings which usually accompany the inaugural day of RAG week. Instead of this, I was ignored when I asked a fellow classmate what room our first lecture was in. It was then that I remembered the Sponsored Silence that myself and Mark Noonan were organising was in full muted swing. The event was billed as "Who would you like to see shut up for a day?" Nominations ranged from lecturers and Alan Mac Stiofan to the entire Red Soc. The silence ran from

11-2 yet one unwitting participant continued it for a further 9 hours, much to his friends amusement. The silence was moved to Grafton St at 2:00 when the three organisers were strapped to chairs and had their mouths bound all in the name of charity. Much hilarity ensued, resulting in some X-rated stories which cannot be repeated here. €487.44 was raised in an hour thanks to the efforts of Siobhan Griffin and the rest of the 3rd year Marketing girls. In total, the Sponsored Silence raised €3000 for the CRC. A big thank you to everyone who took part and helped out.

By: Rory Fox.

Carnival

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RAG Trip Dismay

Dear Members,

I issued the below apology to all DIT students and staff on Friday 17th February as a result of the events on Thursday morning, prior to the Rag Trip.

Since then there has been a lot of conjecture about the trip and I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the actions and express the feelings of those of us involved on the day.

Traditionally the Rag Trip has been associated with great craic and of course, the inevitable consumption of alcohol. As you are aware, DIT has a strict policy on alcohol, which we ourselves endorse in regard to the promotion of safe drinking.

This year we took steps to ensure that alcohol was not taken onto the buses. We were obliged to this by law, and also by our duty of care to our members. The decision to not allow alcohol on the bus was printed on every ticket sold.

We were aware that some students would, from their previous experience, ignore this information and bring alcohol regardless. To prepare for this, we hired professional event staff to search all students going onto buses and to dispose of any alcohol.

What we were not prepared for however, was that so many students would arrive on site, with large quantities of alcohol and when realising they couldn't take it on buses, decide to drink it all in a short space of time.

I do not need to detail here some of the scenes that were witnessed in Aungier St, Mountjoy Sq and Bolton St, suffice to say everyone involved in the Union was shocked and saddened by the way some students chose to start their day.

DIT and DITSU staff had to deal with aggressive, drunken, loutish behaviour that has no place in the Institute. Any regard for courtesy or manners seemed to go out the window for some students as they threw broken bottles on the ground, shouted obscenities to fellow students, and showed blatant disregard for the rights of other students, as well as insulting and offending members of the public and the Gardaí, who were helping co-ordinate the event. The clean up operation which began at lunchtime went on well into the evening.

On Friday myself, Alan and Bernadette met with President Norton, who on behalf of DIT expressed his dismay at the scenes witnessed on Thursday. The Presidents' condemnation of the events was matched by our own.

The crux of this issue is that the future of all DIT Students' Union events has been brought into question, and the possibility of future 'Mystery Tours' is very unlikely. In all my time in DIT I have been a huge advocate of the importance of social aspect of student life, and I have been hugely involved in the organisation of these events. However Thursday mornings events have left us wondering what is the best direction to now take with regard to what has always been the highlight of our events calendar, and if RAG week can survive this behaviour?

This letter is not published as a threat, it is an explanation of where we now stand with regard to DIT Students' Union events, and will hopefully express our disillusionment with the behaviour of a section of the students we represent and work for.

Yours truly,
Bob Coggins,
Student Union President.

DIT Students' Union wishes to apologise unreservedly for the unacceptable behaviour witnessed in Aungier St, Bolton St and Mountjoy Square on Thursday 16th February.

We wish to apologise to DIT Staff, Students and any member of the public that was affected by the events leading up to The Mystery Rag Trip.

We are extremely disappointed that this event, out of an otherwise successful Rag Week was marred by such disappointing scenes.

Whilst every measure was put in place to organise a safe trip, including the elimination of alcohol on the buses, we were unprepared for the actions of some of our membership prior to departure.

Whilst DITSU will do everything possible to help students deal with problems around alcohol, we will show no tolerance for those who having abused alcohol then proceed to abuse the rights of others.

DITSU would like to acknowledge and thank all staff that assisted us during the event.

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